

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office action mailed 14 March 2007.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to correct punctuation errors, but remain otherwise unchanged.

New claims 15 and 16 have been added, which recite details of the excitation system, as shown in Figure 2 of the originally filed specification. No new matter has been introduced by the addition of claims 15 and 16.

Claims 1-14 currently stand rejected under 103(a). The Office action cites U.S. Patents No. 5,129,328 (Donnelly), No. 6,198,238 (Edelson) and No. 6,308,639 (Donnelly et al.) in support of these obviousness rejections. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the obviousness rejections, in light of the following comments.

Claims 1 and 9 each recite a turbogenerator comprising, in part, "an excitation system for said induction alternator comprising a plurality of static capacitors and switches". None of the cited references teach or suggest the use of such an excitation system in the context of claims 1 and 9.

The Office action acknowledges that Donnelly fails to disclose an excitation system as recited in claims 1 and 9. It is noted that Donnelly et al. also fails to disclose such an excitation system.

The Office action states that Edelson teaches an excitation system as recited in claims 1 and 9. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Edelson discloses an excitation system for a high phase order induction generator comprising a subset of windings (12) connected to a source of alternating current (23) which may comprise an inverter (see column 12, line 34 to column 13, line 7, and Figure 12 of Edelson). Edelson fails to teach or suggest an excitation system comprising a plurality of static capacitors and switches.

The only discussion of capacitors in Edelson is found in the Background section, at column 2, lines 32-35, which relates to the use of capacitors to smooth out the output of a pulse width modulated DC controller (chopper). There is no suggestion of the use of capacitors for exciting the generator of Edelson - capacitors are only mentioned for use in filtering chopper output.


In contrast, an excitation system according to certain embodiments of the invention such as recited in claims 1 and 9 which comprises a plurality of static capacitors and switches is operable to generate oscillations due to the inductance of the windings by opening and closing the switches. The alternating current generated by such oscillations excites the induction alternator. None of the cited references teach or suggest such an excitation system.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 9 are patentable over the cited references.

Claims 2-8 and 10-16 all ultimately depend from either claim 1 or claim 9, and are submitted to be patentable for at least this reason. These dependent claims also recite features which further distinguish embodiments of the present invention from the prior art. For example, as noted above, claims 15 and 16 recite features of an example excitation system according to the embodiment shown in Figure 2 of the specification. None of the cited references teach or suggest an excitation system as recited in claims 15 and 16.

The Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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